

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

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In re:	) Chapter 11
	)
BIG LOTS, INC., <i>et al.</i> ,	) Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)
	)
	) (Jointly Administered)
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	)
	) Obj. Deadline: 4/18/25 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)
	) Hrg. Date: <i>Only if an objection is filed</i>
	)

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**SUMMARY OF FIFTH MONTHLY FEE APPLICATION OF  
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP, COUNSEL TO THE OFFICIAL  
COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS, FOR ALLOWANCE OF  
COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE  
PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

Name of Applicant:	<b>MCDERMOTT WILL &amp; EMERY LLP</b>
Authorized to provide professional services to:	<b>Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Big Lots, Inc., <i>et al.</i></b>
Date of retention:	<b>November 13, 2024, effective September 24, 2024</b>
Period for which compensation and reimbursement are sought:	<b>February 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025</b>
Amount of compensation sought as actual, reasonable, and necessary:	<b>\$189,632.00 (80% of \$237,040.00)</b>
Amount of reimbursement sought as actual, reasonable, and necessary:	<b>\$0.00</b>
This is a:	<b>Monthly Fee Application</b>

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<sup>1</sup> The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors' corporate headquarters is 4900 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

**Prior Monthly Applications:**

MONTHLY FEE APPLICATION			REQUESTED FEES AND EXPENSES		APPROVED FEES AND EXPENSES		HOLDBACK
Application Docket No. Date Filed	CNO Date Filed Docket No.	Period Covered	Requested Fees	Requested Expenses	Approved Fees (80%)	Approved Expenses (100%)	Fees Holdback (20%)
First Monthly DI 1247 11/25/24	12/17/24 DI 1372	9/24/24-10/31/24	\$1,551,738.00	\$6,679.15	\$1,241,390.40	\$6,679.15	\$310,347.60
Second Monthly DI 1441 12/27/24	1/21/25 DI 1806	11/1/24-11/30/24	\$1,813,155.50	\$15,698.38	\$1,450,524.40	\$15,698.38	\$362,631.10
Third Monthly DI 1841 1/24/25	2/19/25 DI 2010	12/1/24-12/31/24	\$669,679.50	\$1,362.64	\$535,743.60	\$1,362.64	\$133,935.90
Fourth Monthly DI 2118 2/28/25	3/24/25 DI 2375	1/1/25-1/31/25	\$295,219.50	\$3,886.71	\$236,175.60	\$3,886.71	\$59,043.90
Totals			\$4,329,792.50	\$27,626.88	\$3,463,834.00	\$27,626.88	\$865,958.50

**OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED  
CREDITORS OF BIG LOTS, INC., ET AL.  
SUMMARY OF BILLING BY PROFESSIONAL  
FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

Name of Professional Person	Date of Bar Admission	Position with the Applicant and Practice Area	Hourly Billing Rate <sup>2</sup>	Total Billed Hours	Total Compensation
Joel C. Haims	1994	Partner; Trial	\$2,015	13.2	\$26,598.00
Kristin K. Going	2002	Partner; Corporate Advisory	\$1,860	16.5	\$30,690.00
David R. Hurst	1998	Partner; Corporate Advisory	\$1,860	9.1	\$16,926.00
Stacy A. Lutkus	2003	Partner; Corporate Advisory	\$1,825	14.8	\$27,010.00
Daniel Thomson	20119	Associate; Corporate Advisory	\$1,470	3.3	\$4,851.00
Natalie A. Rowles	2018	Associate; Corporate Advisory	\$1,445	26.3	\$38,003.50
Elizabeth H. Shreff	2022	Associate; Trial	\$1,270	49.5	\$62,865.00
Cristian P. Catanese	2023	Associate; Corporate Advisory	\$1,145	11.9	\$13,625.50
Rachel Lee	2024	Associate; Trial	\$1,020	7.5	\$7,650.00
Zenab Irfan	N/A	Law Clerk; Trial	\$895	6.1	\$5,459.50
Serena Wright	N/A	Technology Project Manager	\$595	1.7	\$1,011.50
Nolley M. Rainey	N/A	Paralegal; Corporate Advisory	\$550	3.2	\$1,760.00
Daniel Valentino	N/A	Senior Litigation Technology Analyst	\$295	1.0	\$295.00

<sup>2</sup> Except as set forth below, the rate represents the current standard hourly rate of each McDermott attorney and paralegal who rendered legal services.

Name of Professional Person	Date of Bar Admission	Position with the Applicant and Practice Area	Hourly Billing Rate <sup>2</sup>	Total Billed Hours	Total Compensation
Andy Garcia	N/A	Litigation Technology Data Analyst	\$295	1.0	\$295.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>165.1</b>	<b>\$237,040.00</b>

**Blended Rate: \$1,435.74**

**OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED  
CREDITORS OF BIG LOTS, INC., ET AL.  
SUMMARY OF FEES BY PROJECT CATEGORY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Total Fees</b>
Case Administration	1.3	\$1,788.00
Asset Disposition	2.9	\$5,120.50
Relief from Stay	14.9	\$23,097.00
Meetings and Communications with Creditors	12.1	\$19,549.00
Court Hearings	20.2	\$31,227.50
Fee/Employment Applications	19.3	\$27,721.00
Contested and Litigation-Related Matters	84.5	\$111,921.50
Non-Working Travel	3.9	\$7,254.00
Claims Administration	6.0	\$9,361.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>165.1</b>	<b>\$237,040.00</b>

**OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED  
CREDITORS OF BIG LOTS, INC., *ET AL.*  
SUMMARY OF EXPENSES**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

Expense Category	Service Provider (if applicable)	Total Expenses
N/A		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

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In re:	) Chapter 11
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BIG LOTS, INC., <i>et al.</i> ,	) Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)
	)
	) (Jointly Administered)
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	)
	) Obj. Deadline: 4/18/25 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)
	) Hrg. Date: <i>Only if an objection is filed</i>
	)

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**FIFTH MONTHLY FEE APPLICATION OF McDERMOTT  
WILL & EMERY LLP, COUNSEL TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF  
UNSECURED CREDITORS, FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION  
AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

McDermott Will & Emery LLP (the “Applicant” or “McDermott”), counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) of Big Lots, Inc., *et al.*, the debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”), hereby applies (the “Application”), pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and Rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”), for allowance of compensation for services rendered and expenses incurred for the period from February 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025 (the “Application Period”), and respectfully represents as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors’ corporate headquarters is 4900 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. The Court has jurisdiction to consider the Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue of these cases and the Application in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

2. The legal predicates for the relief requested herein are Bankruptcy Code sections 330 and 331, Bankruptcy Rule 2016, and Local Rule 2016-1.

3. McDermott confirms its consent, pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(f), to the entry of a final order by the Court in connection with the Application in the event that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

**BACKGROUND**

**A. The Chapter 11 Cases**

4. On September 9, 2024 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtors commenced the Chapter 11 Cases by filing petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code with the Court. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors in possession under sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in the Chapter 11 Cases.

5. On September 23, 2024, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the “U.S. Trustee”) appointed the Committee under section 1102(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code. See Docket No. 248.

**B. The Committee's Retention of McDermott**

6. On October 18, 2024, the Committee applied [Docket No. 552] to the Court for an order authorizing the Committee to retain and employ McDermott as its counsel, effective as of September 24, 2024. On November 13, 2024, the Court entered an order [Docket No. 1083] authorizing such retention.

**C. The Interim Compensation Order**

7. On October 17, 2024, the Court entered the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Retained Professionals* [Docket No. 519] (the “Interim Compensation Order”),<sup>2</sup> which sets forth the procedures for interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses in the Chapter 11 Cases. Specifically, the Interim Compensation Order provides that a retained professional may file and serve a Monthly Fee Statement on or after the fifth (5th) day of each month following the month for which compensation is sought. Provided that there are no objections to the Monthly Fee Statement filed within twenty-one (21) days after the service of a Monthly Fee Statement, the professional may file a certificate of no objection with the Court, after which the Debtors are authorized to pay such professional eighty percent (80%) of the fees and one-hundred percent (100%) of the expenses requested in such Monthly Fee Statement.

**RELIEF REQUESTED**

8. By this Application, McDermott requests the allowance of \$189,632.00, which is equal to eighty percent (80%) of the \$237,040.00 in fees for professional services rendered by McDermott during the Application Period.

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<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such items in the Interim Compensation Order.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES RENDERED**

9. During the Application Period, McDermott professionals, including attorneys and paraprofessionals (collectively, the “McDermott Professionals”), devoted 165.1 hours to, among other things, contested and litigation-related matters, preparation for and attendance at Court hearings, preparation of professional fee applications, automatic stay matters, meetings and communications with the Committee and other creditors, claims administration, and sale matters. McDermott Professionals’ most significant work in these matter categories is summarized below, and all work performed by McDermott Professionals is described in detail in Exhibit A hereto, which provides a detailed itemization, by project category, of all services performed by McDermott Professionals with respect to the Chapter 11 Cases during the Application Period. This detailed itemization complies with Local Rule 2016-1(d) in that each time entry contains a separate time allotment, a description of the type of activity, and the subject matter of the activity, all time is billed in increments of one-tenth of an hour, time entries are presented chronologically in categories, and all meetings and hearings are individually identified.

**A. Contested and Litigation-Related Matters**  
**Amount Sought: \$111,921.50**

10. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals continued the Committee’s investigations into potential claims against the Debtors’ current and former directors and officers. In connection therewith, McDermott Professionals: (i) met and conferred with opposing counsel regarding the Committee’s discovery requests; (ii) coordinated various strategy matters with co-counsel at Cole Schotz P.C. and the Committee’s financial advisor, FTI Consulting, Inc.; (iii) reviewed documents produced and replies provided in response to discovery requests; and (iv) researched and analyzed relevant legal issues.

11. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 84.5 hours to contested and litigation-related matters during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$111,921.50 is sought.

**B. Court Hearings**

**Amount Sought: \$31,227.50**

12. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals prepared for and attended the omnibus hearing held on February 26, 2025.

13. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 20.2 hours to preparation for and attendance at Court hearings during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$31,227.50 is sought.

**C. Fee and Employment Applications**

**Amount Sought: \$27,721.00**

14. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals drafted and revised McDermott's fourth monthly fee application and analyzed fee applications of certain of the Debtors' professionals.

15. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 19.3 hours to the preparation of professional fee applications and related matters during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$27,721.00 is sought.

**D. Automatic Stay**

**Amount Sought: \$23,097.00**

16. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals devoted time to, among other things: (i) analyzing the Debtors' motion to allow the advancement and payment of defense costs and settlement amounts pursuant to the Debtors' primary directors & officers liability insurance policy; (ii) researching issues related to such motion; (iii) communicating with

Debtors' counsel regarding the Committee's objections to such motion; and (iv) negotiating a settlement with the Debtors of the Committee's objections to such motion.

17. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 14.9 hours to automatic stay matters during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$23,097.00 is sought.

**E. Meetings and Communications with Creditors**  
**Amount Sought: \$19,549.00**

18. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals communicated with the Committee members and their counsel both as a group and on an individual basis. Among other things, McDermott Professionals: (i) provided recommendations to the Committee regarding various requests by the Debtors and other parties in interest; (ii) counseled the Committee in connection with the Committee's responses to the Debtors' pleadings; and (iii) delivered email updates regarding Committee business, case updates, and various outstanding matters.

19. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 12.1 hours to communications with the Committee and other creditors (and related tasks) during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$19,549.00 is sought.

**F. Claims Administration**  
**Amount Sought: \$9,361.50**

20. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals devoted time to analyzing and revising the Debtors' motion for entry of an order setting a bar date for and establishing procedures related to the filing of proofs of claim for pre-closing administrative expense claims. In connection therewith, McDermott Professionals: (i) analyzed various issues surrounding the mechanics of the proposed procedures outlined in the motion; (ii) provided comments to Debtors' counsel regarding such proposed procedures and the form of the motion; (iii) analyzed the objections to the motion; and (iv) analyzed the Debtors' omnibus reply to such objections.

21. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 6.0 hours to claims administration matters during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$9,361.50 is sought.

**G. Asset Disposition**

**Amount Sought: \$5,120.50**

22. During the Application Period, McDermott Professionals devoted time to, among other things, reviewing, analyzing, and communicating with various parties regarding the procedures and other details surrounding the Debtors' sale of certain of their assets to Gordon Brothers Retail Partners, LLC.

23. McDermott Professionals devoted a total of 2.9 hours to sale matters during the Application Period, for which compensation in the amount of \$5,120.50 is sought.

**VALUATION OF SERVICES**

24. McDermott Professionals expended a total of 165.1 hours in connection with this matter during the Application Period. The amount of time spent by each of the McDermott Professionals providing services to the Committee during the Application Period is set forth in **Exhibit A**. The rates reflected in this Application are McDermott's normal hourly rates of compensation for work of this character. The reasonable value of the services rendered by McDermott during the Application Period as counsel for the Committee in the Chapter 11 Cases is \$237,040.00.

25. In accordance with the factors enumerated in Bankruptcy Code section 330, McDermott submits that the amount requested is fair and reasonable given (a) the complexity of the Chapter 11 Cases, (b) the time expended, (c) the nature and extent of the services rendered, (d) the value of such services, and (e) the costs of comparable services other than in a case under the Bankruptcy Code.

**NO PRIOR REQUEST**

26. No prior request for the relief requested in this Application has been made to this Court or any other court.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

27. The undersigned representative of McDermott certifies that he has reviewed the requirements of Local Rule 2016-1 and that the Application substantially complies with that Local Rule. To the extent that the Application does not comply in all respects with the requirements of Local Rule 2016-1, McDermott believes that such deviations are not material and respectfully requests that any such requirement be waived.

*[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]*

WHEREFORE, McDermott respectfully requests that it (a) be allowed compensation in the amount of \$189,632.00 (80% of \$237,040.00) for necessary professional services rendered to the Committee during the Application Period, and (b) be granted such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Wilmington, Delaware  
March 28, 2025

**McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP**

/s/ David R. Hurst

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*Counsel for the Official Committee  
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